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EVACUATES IN FEBRUARY

"Not only are the Czecho-Slovak troops now successfully advancing in eastern Siberia, but an agreement has been effected between the governments of Great Britain and the United States providing for their repatriation from Vladivostok. American vessels will begin to arrive at that port by February 1, and a contingent of more than 10,000 Czecho-Slovak troops can be immediately embarked. It is expected that evacuation will proceed rapidly thereafter, and from that date the first purpose for which American soldiers were sent to Siberia may be regarded as accomplished.

COMPLICATIONS FEARED

"With respect to the second purpose, namely, the steady- ing of efforts at self-government or self-defense on the part of the Russians, the Government of the United States is im- pressed with the political instability and grave uncertainties of the present situation in eastern Siberia, as described in the *aide memoire* presented by the Japanese Ambassador December 8, and is disposed to the view that further military effort to assist the Russians in the struggle toward self-government may, in the present situation, lead to complications which would have exactly the opposite effect, prolonging possibly the period of readjustment and involving Japan and the United States in ineffective and needless sacrifices. It is felt accordingly to be unlikely that the second purpose for which American troops were sent to Siberia will be longer served by their presence here.

"In view, then, of the fact that the main purpose for which American troops were sent to Siberia is now at an end and of the considerations set forth in the communication of the Japanese Government of December 8, which subsequent events in eastern Siberia have strengthened, the Government of the United States has decided to begin at once arrangements for the concentration of the American forces at Vladivostok, with a view to their embarkation and departure im- mediately after the leaving of the first important contingent of Czecho-Slovak troops—that is to say, about February 1.

RAILWAY EXPERTS TO WITHDRAW

"Careful consideration has also been given to the possibility of continuing after the departure of the American troops the assistance of American railway experts in the operation of the Transsiberian and Chinese Eastern rail- ways. It will be recalled that it is expressly stipulated in the plan for the supervision of these railways, which was submitted by the Japanese Ambassador at Washington January 15, 1919, that the arrangement should cease upon the withdrawal of the foreign military forces from Siberia, and that all foreign railway experts appointed under the arrangement should then be recalled forthwith. The experience of recent months in the operation of the railways under conditions of unstable civil authority and frequent local military interference furnishes a strong reason for abiding by the terms of the original agreement.

"Arrangements will be made accordingly for the withdrawal of the American railway experts under the same conditions and simultaneously with the departure of the American military forces.

NOT AN END OF CO-OPERATION

"The Government of the United States desires the Japanese Government to know that it regrets the necessity for this decision, because it seems to mark the end, for the time being at least, of co-operative effort by Japan and the United States to assist the Russian people, which had of late begun to bear important results and seemed to give promise for the future. The Government of the United States is most appreciative of the friendly spirit which has animated the Government of Japan in this undertaking, and is convinced that the basis of understanding which has been established will serve in the future to facilitate the common efforts of the two countries to deal with the problems which confront them in Siberia. The Government of the United States does not in the least relinquish the deep interest which it feels in

the political and economic fate of the people of Siberia nor its purpose to co-operate with Japan in the most frank and friendly way in all practical plans which may be worked out for the political and economic rehabilitation of that region."

LETTER BOX

LYNN HAVEN, FLORIDA.

The American Peace Society.

DEAR FRIENDS: Kindly accept my *many* thanks for the privilege of ordering our good PEACE ADVOCATE under old rates. Find inclosed post-office order of one dollar for the ensuing year, which send to the following address and greatly oblige a wonderfully pleased reader.

Sincerely,

ELMINA TITUS.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

THE FUTURE OF PROTESTANTISM in central Europe is giving much concern to ecclesiastical statesmen bred in the schools of Luther, Calvin, and Arminius, but especially to the followers of Luther. We alluded in our November, 1919, issue to the burdens that the war had laid upon American Lutheranism in taking up some of the religious and humanitarian enterprises that German Lutheran churches had carried on in possessions now non-German under the terms of the Peace Treaty. It is now announced that American-German Lutherans are planning to stand sponsor for an Ecumenical Lutheran Council to be held in the United States this year. Representatives of American and German churches with 75,000,000 adherents will then listen to the report on conditions in central Europe to be made by commissioners from the United States who have spent six months finding out what the precise facts are which the Lutheran clergy and laity face.

President Morehead, of Roanoke College, who has served on this commission, and who is soon to return to Europe to administer such immediate relief as can be given, is quoted as saying that "the Lutheran Church in America must guide the Lutheran Church in Germany, if it is to meet its present problems and remain a power in the world. If we fail, there is a danger that Protestantism there will pass." One of these problems is the change of a great organization from that of a subsidized and tax-supported State church to that of a voluntary-support basis, which is no easy problem, with economic conditions and social propaganda conditions as they now are. Apropos the issue of union of state and church, it is suggestive to find that in Scotland, the land of Knox, where Calvin "stamped his iron heel" so deeply, to quote Oliver Wendell Holmes, the United Free Church and the Church of Scotland, the state-recognized church, have decided to unite, the issues that hitherto divided them having come to be so insignificant compared with the problems now facing the church as a whole in a very secular world. In Czecho-Slavia, as we pointed out (December, 1919), the government has sharply defined this issue by affirming repeatedly, both in its organic law and in its executive's utterances, the separation of church and State; and already a split has come in the ranks of the Roman Catholic Church in consequence of the liberal governmental attitude.